



JOHN M. KING

DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

BIOGRAPHY

Appointed by Governor Gary Locke, John King became the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs in May 1997. Prior to this, he served as Deputy Director of Administration for the Washington State Attorney General's Office, a position he had held since 1995.

As a member of the Governor's Executive Cabinet, he is responsible for the management and administration of a state agency consisting of 800 contract and state employees, and a biennial budget of over \$78 million. The department serves Washington's veterans and their families. It operates three Medicaid certified residential veterans homes; two in Western Washington and one in Eastern Washington. In addition, counseling sites and a veterans estate management program provide outreach to veterans in 357 private nursing facilities, and together serve as the central point of contact for the state's more than 670,000 veterans and their family members.

King is a Vietnam veteran who served as a weapons platoon staff sergeant in the Army's First Cavalry Division in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969, where he fought in several major actions including the Tet Offensive of 1968. He left the service as a Staff Sergeant (E-6) and was awarded a Bronze Star and other decorations.

In 1990, King received the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award for his accomplishments as a state manager. He is the former president of the Griffin School District Board and serves on the advisory board for his local fire district. He is also a member of the Ira Cater VFW Post #318 in Olympia.

King received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Washington in 1975 and a Masters in Social Work Administration from UW in 1979. He also completed numerous courses on strategic planning, quality management and other supporting areas through the state's Career Executive Program and at the University of Puget Sound and Duke University. Most recently, King completed the Executive Management Program, at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard.

King has been married to Joy for 30+ years, has two adult sons and became a Grandpa in May 2003. His hobbies include camping, fishing and other outdoor activities.